

Ohio—"does amazing digital printings and photography. She restores old photographs into digital paintings."

Tia said: "Gemini Gems & Creations in Lancaster"—a small city southeast of Columbus—"wonderful people who started selling out of their home and during town events"—out of their home and during town events—"and now finally have their own shop."

Teresa mentioned "Chris Fultz's sign company, Fultz Signs and his pizza place, Bluelick General, in Lima."

Lima just swore in this week a new mayor, Sharetta Smith, and the mayor of Dayton, my friend Nan Whaley, attended the swearing in.

Adam mentioned the Copper Penny Salon in Pettisville.

Vickie mentioned the Charmed Farmhouse in Wellington. She said: "They take food drives and donate to those in town who directly help our community. They survived shutdown and thrive still."

Think about that: They survived and they thrive. This pandemic hit small businesses hard. For so many of them, they are still paying their workers and serving their communities because of PPP, because of our work through the American Rescue Plan to get people vaccinated.

PPP has helped Ohio businesses survive. Vaccines are bringing back customers, allowing these small businesses to thrive again.

The bipartisan infrastructure plan the President signed just last month is going to mean investment—earlier this month. Excuse me. It is going to mean investment in these businesses' local communities.

People in Ohio and across the country remember how after the last economic crisis in 2008 and 2009, the biggest corporations recovered—they always do—while large swaths of the country were left behind.

Many of these same communities have watched for decades as factories closed, as investment dried up, as storefronts were boarded over. We can't make that mistake again, and we are not making that mistake.

We are investing in rebuilding roads and bridges and bus and rail systems to revitalize downtowns. We know businesses can't survive on their own. They need safe streets and sidewalks. They need other businesses around. They need bus stops nearby. They need customers with money in their pockets.

As part of the American Rescue Plan, as I said earlier, we passed the largest tax cut for working families ever. Ninety-two percent of families in Ohio who have children under 18—92 percent of those families—will get at least a \$3,000-a-year tax cut.

It is essential that this Congress, that this Senate extend that tax cut for at least another year. It is giving millions of Ohio families that tax cut every single month—\$250 or \$300 per child every single month. We need to make sure they continue.

We need this holiday season to commit to shopping local, and in the Sen-

ate let's commit to protecting small business—putting small businesses and workers at the center of our economy.

The workers who shared these—the Ohioans who shared these stories—know the vibrancy and the dynamism and the diversity of working-class towns in neighborhoods that Senator PORTMAN, who is in the Chamber this evening—that we represent. We need to get to work to invest in them. We need to get to work to ensure that these places—Ohio's Main Streets, America's Main Streets—are at the center of a better economy.

MORNING BUSINESS

HOSSAM BAHGAT

Mr. LEAHY. Madam President, in June of this year, Egyptian prosecutors opened a criminal investigation concerning human rights defender Hossam Bahgat, in relation to a December 2020 tweet criticizing Egypt's flawed parliamentary elections. The acts he has been accused of would not be considered crimes in the United States, nor in any other country that respects freedom of expression.

Hossam Bahgat is the executive director and founder of one of the most respected Egyptian human rights organizations, the Egyptian Initiative for Personal Rights, EIPR. His work has been recognized around the world, and in April 2021, Mr. Bahgat met with Secretary of State Blinken as part of a group of leading human rights activists. Other EIPR employees have also been targeted, along with many others as part of the government's crackdown on independent civil society organizations. In February of 2020, EIPR researcher Patrick George Zaki was forcibly disappeared and reportedly tortured. A year ago, three of EIPR's senior employees, Gasser Abdel-Razek, Karim Ennarrah, and Mohamed Basheer, were also arbitrarily detained, effectively silencing them.

Mr. Bahgat faces up to 3 years in prison and almost \$20,000 in fines for reportedly doing nothing more than expressing views the Egyptian authorities consider to be "insulting" or "false news". This is not the first time Mr. Bahgat has been targeted for his courageous and important reporting. In 2015, he was detained for 3 days after reporting on officers convicted of planning a coup and was only released when the case received international attention from human rights groups and the United Nations.

I have consistently spoken out about human rights in Egypt and in other countries, especially when governments crack down on human rights activists. The State Department publicly expressed concern in July of this year. Today, I am adding my voice to others who have raised concerns about Mr. Bahgat's wrongful detention. A verdict in his case may be imminent. I hope the Egyptian Government will abandon

its persecution of Hossam Bahgat and his fellow human rights defenders. Like the Department of State, I have been urging the Egyptian authorities to make progress on human rights so our two countries can expand cooperation in other important areas. Further attempts to silence Mr. Bahgat and the other EIPR employees will needlessly impede those efforts.

VOTE EXPLANATION

Mr. HAWLEY. Madam President, had there been a recorded vote, I would have voted no on the confirmations of Executive Calendar No. 537, Cole Finegan, of Colorado to be United States Attorney for the District of Colorado for the term of four years; No. 538, Kenneth L. Parker, of Ohio, to be United States Attorney for the Southern District of Ohio for the term of four years; No. 553, Cindy K. Chung, of Pennsylvania, to be United States Attorney for the Western District of Pennsylvania for the term of four years; and No. 554, Gary M. Restaino, of Arizona, to be United States Attorney for the District of Arizona for the term of four years.

SWITZERLAND

Mr. KAINE. Madam President, I come to the floor today to talk about the unique partnership between the United States and Switzerland. I had the opportunity earlier this month to meet with President of Switzerland Guy Parmelin to discuss the U.S.-Switzerland partnership on apprenticeship and workforce training. Our meeting came on the heels of a Senate Foreign Relations Committee hearing considering the nomination of Scott Miller to be the Ambassador to Switzerland. My questioning of Mr. Miller covered many topics, to include the recent decision by the government of Switzerland and Swiss voters to purchase Lockheed Martin F-35s as their next-generation fighter jet.

In the following weeks, I have received more information on the benefits of the F-35 and the incredible opportunity this security cooperation provides for both Switzerland and the United States. In fact, prior to making a selection, the Swiss Federal Council completed a comprehensive analysis and determined that the F-35 offered the highest benefit, at the lowest cost: \$2 billion less than the next lowest bidder.

In making their choice, the Government of Switzerland and Swiss voters clearly recognized the value of the F-35, as well as the superior capabilities the F-35 offers. The deal has my enthusiastic support, and I appreciate our continued partnership with the Swiss Government and the Swiss people.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO MARIE BEAVER

• Mrs. CAPITO. Madam President, I rise today to honor a good friend of mine for the work she has done for women in recovery. Marie Beaver is retiring after 18 years as the executive director of Rea of Hope, a very successful recovery program and facility in my hometown of Charleston, WV, which she built from the ground up.

Although Marie is not a native of West Virginia, she found her way to our State as a result of her marriage to her husband, Carl Beaver. Shortly after her arrival, Marie was hired and started working to create Rea of Hope just before the full scope of the addiction epidemic was recognized.

Working with little money and a lot of help from volunteers, including the organization's board of directors, and donated labor from a work release program, Marie transformed a deteriorating home on the East End of Charleston into our State's first recovery home for women.

Marie's personal experience as a recovering addict shaped the foundation of Rea of Hope as an abstinence only, no tolerance recovery home. Residents are expected to find and hold a job, pay rent, attend 12-step meetings, and take responsibility for the mistakes of their past and pay their debts. Personal responsibility is a tenet of the program and Rea of Hope has a long list of successful graduates who have completed their high school and college degrees, are employed in both the public sector and privately owned businesses, are becoming first-time homebuyers, and, most importantly, are being reunited with their children, providing safe, loving homes.

The home's success is how I met Marie. The White House Drug Czar under President George W. Bush, John P. Walters, visited Rea of Hope with me early in my congressional career. Marie was a gracious hostess, and the Drug Czar was very impressed with what he saw and experienced. A rose bush was brought from the White House on that visit, which was planted, and I believe is still in Rea of Hope's front yard.

As a next step, Marie realized that there were no affordable, safe apartments to rent for graduates of the program in the Charleston area. She began arranging financing and buying apartment properties and renting them to the graduates. As a result, graduates are able to learn about renting and the associated costs, but do not have to worry about unruly neighbors or drugs or alcohol being on the premises. The apartments have created a sober community where women take care of one another and their children, as built-in baby sitters when mothers have to work or attend a 12-step meeting. This successful model of recovery has helped 250 women from 44 West Virginia counties learn to live sober, responsible

lives. The annual fundraiser named, "Miracle on Lee Street" reflecting Rea of Hope's address is a very fitting name. If success is measured by the difference you make, Rea of Hope's success is immeasurable.

Marie and her husband Carl have decided to retire and return to her home State of South Carolina to be near family, the ocean, and her beloved Clemson Tigers. Marie made West Virginia her home over the nearly 20 years she lived here, cultivating friendships, whether professionally or personally throughout the State. She put such a positive face on recovery and exemplified that long-term recovery is possible and so rewarding.

Thank you, Marie, for the terrific work you have done and the example you and Rea of Hope have set as a model for recovery. Marie has established a high standard, and I am sure Rea of Hope will maintain the quality of service that she performed.

I wish Marie the best, and like all who know her, I will miss her. I am proud to call Marie friend and fellow West Virginian.●

REMEMBERING JACE WARD

• Mr. MARSHALL. Madam President, today I wish to recognize a fellow Kansan, Jace Ward, for his incredible fight against cancer, inspiring advocacy work, and unyielding display of hope in the face of a terminal illness. At the age of 22, Jace passed away surrounded by family and friends, and today, I commemorate the remarkable accomplishments during his short life.

Jace was born on February 18, 1999, in Wichita, KS. He enjoyed a fantastic childhood in Inman and then moved to Wamego at age 12, where he excelled in school and extracurricular activities. After graduating from Wamego High School in 2017, Jace attended the University of Kansas, studying law and business with scholarships under the Law Education Accelerated Degree Program and the Business Scholars Program.

Following a rollover car accident in February 2019, Jace started to experience eye problems. After an MRI, it was revealed that Jace had an aggressive and particularly deadly form of brain cancer called diffuse intrinsic pontine glioma, DIPG. It generally affects children between the ages of 5 to 9 and has no chance of survival as no effective treatment exists. In fact, only 10 percent of patients survive 2 years after their diagnosis, and less than 1 percent survive past 5 years. Despite these unforgiving odds, Jace decided to make the most of the time he had left.

After being diagnosed with DIPG, Jace transferred to Kansas State University—KSU—on scholarship and majored in business entrepreneurship. He was awarded a bachelor of business administration degree posthumously from KSU, but while he was studying, he also championed advocacy and awareness for pediatric cancer.

While attending KSU, Jace worked vigorously for California-based Emerson Collective as a member of the Health Team, which focuses on advocating and investing funds to combat rare cancers like his. As a member of this organization, he visited with Federal officials in Congress and various agencies at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to raise awareness. Notably, Jace delivered a keynote address at a congressional briefing on DIPG, spoke to the NIH on patient ownership of genomic data, and met with over 67 congressional offices, including mine. As a Member of the House of Representatives and his Congressman, I cosponsored a House resolution expressing support for honoring a day towards DIPG to raise awareness and encourage research into cures for DIPG and other pediatric cancers.

As a business major keenly aware of private sector dynamics and pharmaceutical manufacturing, Jace also helped establish partnerships with biopharmaceutical innovators and foundations. He regularly brought together foundations to partner with him on aspirations he had to fill gaps in research and patient navigation. Jace conceptualized a DIPG Patient Navigation System to direct patients to molecular diagnostics and clinical trials, attracted the support of 20 top doctors and several foundations to open this novel system in November. Because of Jace, over 300 tumors previously held in storage awaiting funding for genomic sequencing are now being sequenced added to quadruple those available for researchers. Jace inspired an astonishing \$5 million in funding for pediatric brain cancer research and treatment, and it is because of him that over 200 patients received expanded access to an investigational drug.

When asked about what he wanted to do with the remaining time he had left and whether he would devote it towards travel or other personal experiences, Jace responded, "I can't die, I'm busy." Jace ignored the ticking clock tethered to him to become a thundering voice for future patients, always putting the need to advance science and protect younger kids and their legacies before his own.

As a physician for nearly 30 years, I am no stranger to cancer or the miracle of hope when faced with the heart-breaking news of a diagnosis. Even during the toughest of times, I have witnessed God in my patient's grace and acceptance; Jace is no exception. I am profoundly honored to have had the opportunity to get to know him and his remarkable family. Jace is survived by his loving parents, Roger and Lisa, and his sister, Brooke.

I ask my colleagues and all Kansans to join me in remembering Jace's courageous fight, his ability to rise to the challenge, and to make a lasting impact in the fight against pediatric cancer.●